

# Frank England

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"We are trying to give kids a quality education at reasonable costs. Are we using personnel as cost-effectively as possible?" he asked. England suggested taking a closer look at middle management and doesn't see proper supervision in some areas. He further suggests teacher qualify themselves in two disciplines to have greater flexibility in their teaching assignments.

England reiterates these beliefs annually, he said, because he realizes it takes time to get things done.

His main gripe is that many high school classes have enrollments of 10 and under. "I don't want to abolish classes under 10," he said. "I just wanted them to get permission to hold them."

Although he agreed he "couldn't complain" about the 1.99 increase in the 1979-80 school budget, he said, "We could do a lot better. There's a myth in American education that if you throw in more money the better it will be. It needs money, true, but it needs more management."

He said he'd have liked to have been voted chairman of the school board. As it was, he broke the stalemate and cast his vote for Jack Langmaid as chairman at the reorganizational meeting. He



Frank England

was voted vice-chairman unanimously.

"It's hard to say why I voted for Jack," England commented. "I wanted to avoid a conflict. A lot of people think I'm hard-nosed and inflexible. I'm not. I'm objective, not subjective."

As for the matter of tie votes and reducing Committee size, England doesn't see a problem. He likes the idea of a two-thirds majority when votes are taken with a six member committee. "I'd hate to be on a board where

everyone agrees," he said. He doesn't regard the amount of time spent on an issue as "time consuming." "If you're elected, you should make a commitment." To England, doing your job is doing whatever it takes to get it done well.

England's "tight ship" philosophy was generated from his Army career during World War II and in the reserves. He learned a lifelong lesson — that training and education teaches responsibility and preparedness. "You learn responsibility very fast, you acquire leadership qualities very fast," England said of his infantry command as a captain in Africa, Sicily and Italy during the war.

Now retired, England reached the rank of Colonel in the reserves, in which he taught at Fort Benning, Fort Summers, Fort Leavenworth, Fort Knox and finally at the 1037th USAR School in Lowell.

Most of the time, he said, he trained people in combat units. His secondary military occupational specialty (MOS) was as a training officer in plans and operations.

"If you stay in the reserves, you learn how to train leadership, how to be a leader, and the psychology of leadership. They fit hand in hand," England attested.

His college days at Syracuse, sandwiched around the war, were spent majoring in insurance — his full-time occupation since 1947. His job as bond manager for the Boston branch office of Aetna Life and Casualty Company has served as a complement to his analytical and evaluative skills.

"We analyze financial statements of companies and decide if they can do the job. A bond guarantees that a contractor will do a job according to the plans and specifications, and pay his bills — it protects labor and materials," he explained.

What it really comes down to once again, he said, is spending a lot of time studying management ability and deciding whether people know how to do their jobs.

England will be 59 this week, yet looks 10 years younger. He has kept himself fit over the years refereeing

lacrosse and soccer for high school and college games around Eastern Massachusetts. "Refereeing is good training for the School Committee," England said jovially. "you're 50 per cent wrong when you make a call."

He's also a member of the State Game Official Commission, the board of directors of the Massachusetts Association of Building Contractors and the New England Construction Education Commission.

England is a no-nonsense, hard-working man. He can seem ominous at times with his statistical expertise and the way he seems to dominate a room when he enters. Yet, he'd be as quick as the next guy to laugh over a joke or to take you out for a beer or to sit around at the Log and Line for a couple of cups of coffee.

Judith Epstein

## Democrats Meet May 15

The Cohasset Democratic Town Committee will hold its annual meeting and election of new officers Tuesday, May 15 at 8 p.m. at the Cushing Room, Cushing Plaza.

Any Cohasset resident who is a registered democrat and who wants appointment as an election officer at the polls during the coming year should

call Mrs. Joseph F. Walsh, the chairman at 383-1489 before May 13. The Town Committee will then submit a list of names to selectmen for possible appointment as the law provides.

Anyone wishing to donate items for a fund raising flea-market table should also call Mrs. Walsh.

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